

Mr. Herluf Winge has put together in this memoir what seems to be a very complete account of the invasion of *Syrnhaptus paradoxus* into Denmark in 1888. The incursion commenced on April 26th, when examples were observed near Vordingborg. On the first days in May they were numerous in many localities. Mr. Winge gives exact details as to the occurrences observed in every part of Denmark. A map of the localities would have rendered this part of the subject more intelligible.

XII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to the Editor of 'The Ibis':—

Turin Zoological Museum,
October 27, 1889.

SIR,—Allow me to send you a few remarks on Mr. Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium,' of which I have lately received a copy. It is a most useful book to the working ornithologist, and I do not wish to criticize it, but only to point out a few omissions and mistakes which have occurred to me on a cursory look through it. I cannot find the following genera mentioned:—

Erythrotriorchis, Gurney, MSS.; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1875 (April 20), p. 338; Gurney, Ibis, 1876, p. 65; id. List Diurn. B. of Prey, p. 45 (1884).

Hirundolanus, Clarke, Trans. N.Z. Inst. xiii. p. 454 (1881); Buller, B. of New Zeal. 2nd ed. i. p. 119.

Ionocicca, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. ser. 2, iii. p. 236 (1886).

Lambruschinia, Salvad. Cat. Uccelli Sardegna, p. 128 (1864).

Melopitta, Stejneger, Stand. Nat. Hist. iv. Birds, p. 466 (1885); id. Auk, vi. p. 79 (1889).

The date (1839) attributed to Bonaparte's 'Introduzione' to the birds of the 'Fauna Italica,' where the generic names *Bonasia*, *Casarca*, *Cettia*, *Chettusia*, *Chlorospiza*, *Citrinella*,

and *Erismatura* are mentioned, is wrong, as I have already shown (*Ibis*, 1888, pp. 320–325), and ought to be 1841. The mistake is avoided as regards the genera *Luscinia* and *Pseudoluscinia*, so that I suppose that the sheets containing the other generic names were printed before my paper appeared.

The genus *Chettusia*, Bp. (*Iconogr. F. I.* Introd. p. 9, 1841, not 1839), is not mentioned also on p. 115, tabl. xli. of the same work, as Mr. Waterhouse states. On the plate xli. (dated 1838) there is only the name *Vanellus gregarius*, and in the accompanying text *Chettusia gregaria* is simply the Italian name printed under that of *Vanellus gregarius* (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1888, p. 323, note).

— *Erythropsiza*, Bp., was established before the “Saggio,” pp. 53, 141 (1831), in the work which bears the title ‘Sulla seconda edizione del Regno Animale del Barone Cuvier; Osservazioni,’ p. 80 (1830), (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1888, p. 320, note).

Eurhynchus, not quite correctly attributed to Latreille, was mentioned by Lesson, ‘Tr. d’Orn.’ p. 183 (1831), and used by him, ‘Compléments de Buffon, Ois.,’ p. 603 (1837), before Gray, ‘List Gen. B.’ p. 53 (1840).

Microglossus, Geoffr. St.-Hilaire. As Mr. Waterhouse rightly states, Vieillot published this genus in the ‘Galerie des Oiseaux,’ i. p. 47, pl. 50, only the date 1825 is not quite exact. In fact he took it from Geoffroy St.-Hilaire, who, in a memoir, “Sur les Appareils de la Déglutition et du Goût dans les Aras Indiens, ou Perroquets Microglosses” (*Mém. du Mus.* x. pp. 186–198, pl. 11. figs. 13, 14, 16, 1823), proposed the French name “Microglosse.” The memoir was read the 6th July, 1821, but was not printed till 1823; at the end of it (p. 198) there is a note in which Geoffroy St.-Hilaire states that the genus Microglosse had already been published in the ‘Galerie des Oiseaux’ by Vieillot, to whom he had communicated his memoir.

From all this it is quite evident that the date of the genus *Microglossus* must be between 6th July, 1821, and 1823. I may remark, by the way, that the ‘Galerie des Oiseaux’ was published in eighty-two parts, from 1820 to 1826 (see Engel-

mann's 'Bibliotheca Historico-naturalis'). I found this out while preparing the volume on the Parrots for the British-Museum Catalogue, and I am afraid that the name *Microglossus* (1821-23) will have to give way to *Solenoglossus*, Zanzani (1821), or to *Probosciger*, Kuhl (1820), if we can use Kuhl's name, which appears to me very doubtful.

Plectolophus, amended for *Plyctolophus*, Vieill., was used, according to Reichenow (Journ. f. Orn. 1881, p. 23), by Le Maout in 1853 (Hist. Nat. Ois. p. 106), and this is prior to Finsch (Die Papageien, i. p. 265, 1867).

Podicipes, the corrected form of *Podiceps*, is attributed by Mr. Waterhouse to Babington ('Catalogue of the Birds of Suffolk,' p. 200, 1884-86). But it was suggested before by Gloger (Journ. für Ornith. 1854, p. 430, note), and it was also used, previously to Mr. Babington, by Elliott Coues in his 'Check-List of North-American Birds,' p. 129 (1882).

Yours &c.,

T. SALVADORI.

Northrepps,
Nov. 19, 1889.

SIR,—I am desirous of putting on record the following short notes :—

The Rev. Edmund Fitch, who has recently returned to England after a residence of over four years at Chagga, in Eastern Africa, about 4500 feet above the sea-level, on the southern slope of Kilima-njaro, has presented to the Norwich Museum a specimen of *Buteo augur*, a species which he informs me is abundant about Chagga, nesting in trees at a height of from twenty to thirty feet, and preying chiefly on snakes, which Mr. Fitch has often observed these Buzzards carrying in their talons when on the wing.

I am indebted to Mr. Fitch for two skins obtained at Chagga of birds which are not mentioned in Captain Shelley's Kilima-njaro list, published in the P. Z. S. 1885, p. 222. One of these is an immature specimen of *Pseudotantalus ibis*, which was shot while perched on the roof of Mr. Fitch's

house, and was the only individual of this species seen by him at Chagga; the other is an example of *Scopus umbretta*, a species which Mr. Fitch informs me frequents in small numbers the streams which descend the mountain's side.

Another matter to which I am desirous of alluding is the difference in size between the African Short-eared Owl, *Asio (Phasmoptynx) capensis*, and the allied Madagascar race, which Schlegel (Mus. P.-B. Revue, Noctuæ, p. 3) called "*Otus capensis major*." Mr. Sharpe, in his Catalogue of the Striges (p. 241), gives it as his opinion that "the difference in size is not sufficient to make one think that the Madagascar bird is really distinct."

I have been led to a conclusion the reverse of Mr. Sharpe's, after taking the following measurements from specimens of both races in the Norwich Museum:—

Smaller Race.

	Wing. in.	Tarsus. in.	Middle toe <i>s. u.</i> in.
♂, Casa Vieja, Spain	11·30	2·10	1·15
♂, Tangier	11·80	2·10	1·10
Tangier (not sexed)	11·45	2·00	1·05
♂, Natal	11·85	2·10	1·10
King William's Town, South Africa (not sexed)	11·35	2·10	1·20
♀, Potchefstroom	11·70	2·10	1·10
♀, Potchefstroom	11·65	2·10	1·00
♀, South Africa	11·50	1·90	1·10

Larger Race (all from Madagascar).

	Wing. in.	Tarsus. in.	Middle toe <i>s. u.</i> in.
♂	13·10	2·30	1·30
♂	12·40	2·20	1·20
♂	13·80	2·20	1·20
♀	13·80	2·20	1·10
Not sexed	13·20	2·30	1·40
Do.	13·10	2·30	1·35
Do.	13·40	2·40	1·40

I may add that the Spanish example above referred to,

which was presented to the Norwich Museum by Col. Irby, by whom it was shot on 10th November, 1870, differs from other examples that I have seen in having the back of the head and neck very regularly cross-barred with narrow bands of brown, lighter than the brown of other parts of the feather, each feather being for the most part crossed by three such bands. I suspect that this may be an indication of immaturity, though probably one that is subject to considerable individual variation.

In a very young bird from Tangier, which had evidently but just left the nest, and which was kindly lent to me by Lord Lilford, there are traces of nuchal markings somewhat similar in character to those on the Spanish specimen at Norwich, but much less regular and conspicuous, and also less sharply defined.

I may add that in this young bird the light cross-bars on the scapulars are more clearly defined than in the adult, and also that the blackish tint on the face is more extended, nearly surrounding the eyes, and reaching from thence to the edge of the disc.

Yours &c.,

J. H. GURNEY.

Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C.,
Nov. 16, 1889.

SIR,—A letter from Professor Alfred Newton which appeared in 'The Ibis' of October 1889, having reference to the use to which certain young birds put the terminal claw of their pollux digits, has interested me not a little. *Opisthocomus* I have never seen, either young or old, in the flesh, but I have seen young Grebes assist themselves in their terrestrial locomotion in precisely the manner which Professor Newton so admirably describes. These, however, are not the only birds that so use their clawed thumbs to assist themselves in their first attempts at progression. So long ago as 1882, in my 'Contributions to the Anatomy of Birds,' on page 776, I say that "Mr. James Bell, of Florida,

an excellent observer of the habits of birds in their native haunts, had that same morning (Dec. 28, 1881) narrated to Mr. Ridgway how, when he was in Florida, he had noticed that the young of *Ionornis martinica* actually put these claws to practical use by holding on to twigs in climbing out of their nests, and sometimes even suspended themselves as Bats do." These claws are large in the Californian Condor, and it would be interesting to know whether the young of the Cathartidæ put them to similar uses.

Yours &c.,

R. W. SHUFELDT.

United States National Museum,
Washington, November 22, 1889.

SIR,—In the last number of 'The Ibis' Mr. J. H. Gurney, Jun., remarks (p. 572), that *Colymbus adamsi* "is only distinguished from . . . *C. glacialis* by the white colour of the bill and a slight difference in its shape." Having on various occasions compared specimens of the two birds and noted other differences, I desire to say that in true *C. adamsi* the whitish colour of the bill is the *least* important distinctive character, since *C. glacialis* occasionally has a more or less light-coloured bill. In *C. adamsi* the exposed culmen is longer than the tarsus, while in *C. glacialis* it is shorter: in *C. adamsi* the head and neck are glossed with violet-blue, and the white spots on the scapulars are decidedly longer than broad; while in *C. glacialis* the head and neck are glossed with green, and the white spots on the scapulars about as wide as they are long. These differences are quite constant, and therefore young birds may readily be distinguished by the comparative length of exposed culmen and tarsus. (*Cf.* 'Manual of North-American Birds,' p. 7, where, however, by an accidental transposition of the words "shorter" and "longer," in paragraphs *c*¹ and *c*² respectively, the relative length of culmen and tarsus in the two species is made to appear exactly the opposite of what is actually the case.)

Yours &c.,

ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Croft House, Holywood,
Co. Down,
December 1, 1889.

SIR,—Allow me to record in your pages the recent occurrences in this and the adjoining county of several examples of the Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*), generally quite a rare bird in the north of Ireland. One was shot near Newry on or about 23rd October; a second was shot and two others seen near Gilford on 4th November; and about the same time another was shot near Donaghadee—all three places in this county; while on 29th November a fourth specimen was shot at Glenarm, co. Antrim.

Yours &c.,

R. LLOYD PATTERSON.

Extract from a Letter from Count Salvadori.—Mr. Ogilvie-Grant (Ibis, 1889, p. 449) states that my *Turnix beccarii* (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. vii. p. 675) “from Celebes appears to be absolutely identical with *T. rufescens*, Wallace.” Later on (*op. cit.* p. 465) he is not so certain, and says that *T. rufescens* from the island of Semaio will “probably prove to be identical with *T. beccarii* from Celebes.” But as Semaio belongs to the Timor group, a different subregion from that of Celebes, where the land-birds are mostly peculiar to the island, I think that Mr. Grant should have given the same indulgence to my species as he has to *T. rufescens* (kept distinct from *T. saturata* and *T. maculosa*), and should have allowed that, judging from the locality, it may prove to be different. The two type specimens of *T. beccarii* are in the Museum of Genoa, and may easily be obtained from the Director for comparison, if Mr. Grant wishes to settle the question.

Note on Spodiopsar fuscogularis.—With reference to Mr. Sharpe’s remarks on *Spodiopsar fuscogularis* (Ibis, 1889, p. 580), Count Salvadori writes to say that he has washed the throat of the typical specimen very carefully, but that it remains unchanged, and the dark colour is still there. Besides,

as he has already remarked (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. ser. 2, vii. p. 421), *S. fuscogularis* is different in structure from *S. burmanicus*; he has compared it with many specimens of the latter, and cannot match it with any of them as regards the shape of the bill, which is longer and thinner in *S. fuscogularis*.

The Southern Range of the Cœrebidæ.—In his Report on the progress of Ornithology in 1886 (Wiegman. Arch. 53 Jahrg. ii. Bd. p. 114), Dr. Reichenow points out that in the 11th vol. of the Catalogue of Birds (p. 1) I have committed an error in stating the southern range of the Cœrebidæ to stop at the Gulf of Guyaquil on the western slope of South America. My statement was undoubtedly an oversight, as a species of this family, *Conirostrum cinereum*, has been obtained by Jelski (cf. Tacx. Orn. Pér. i. p. 425) and by Nation (Cat. B. xi. p. 16) near Lima; by d'Orbigny near Taena (d'Orb. Voy. Ois. p. 375); and by Whitely near Arequipa (P. Z. S. 1867, p. 984). In the same district *Diglossa brunneiventris* was also obtained by Whitely. But Tarma, Paucartambo, and Sicastica, other localities mentioned by Dr. Reichenow as proving the existence of the last-named species in Western Southern America south of Guyaquil, are not on the Pacific, but on the Atlantic slope of the Andean range. The fact is that these two high-ranging species of Cœrebidæ are found on both sides of the water-parting as far south as about 18° S. lat.—P. L. S.

The Raffles Museum at Singapore.—Mr. Davison, writing from Singapore on the 1st November last, gives us a favourable account of the progress of the Museum under his charge. The collection, he says, is rapidly increasing, in fact faster than he can keep up with the additions, especially in the entomological department. In March next Mr. Davison and Mr. Ridley, the botanist, have arranged to make a collecting-expedition into the mountains of the Malay Peninsula, where, judging from what has been recently done in Perak, they ought to make some grand discoveries. Mr. Davison is planning later on to bring out handbooks on the birds and mam-

imals of the Straits Settlements and adjacent protected States, for which end he is busy collecting notes and specimens.

Ornithological Works in Progress.—We understand that Messrs. Sotheran & Co. intend to carry out the scheme of producing a monograph of the Birds of Paradise, which was always a pet idea of the late John Gould. The letterpress will be written by Mr. Bowdler Sharpe, who will utilize many of the plates of Gould's 'Birds of New Guinea,' but the work will also contain illustrations of all the new species described since Mr. Gould's death. The plates are, we understand, nearly all drawn, and the work will appear early in the present year.

Mr. F. Clifton, of Lynmouth Cottage, Hoyard Road, Dorking, has been engaged for several years in collecting materials for a work on the fauna of Surrey, and asks the kind assistance of such of the members of the B. O. U. and other ornithologists connected with the county as may be able to give him information on some of the rarer species.

Mr. Miller Christy, F.L.S. (of Chignal St. James, Chelmsford), announces his intention of publishing a volume on the birds of Essex, provided a sufficient number of subscribers can be obtained. The work will extend to about 250 pages, with a map and numerous illustrations, and will at the same time form one of the special memoirs of the Essex Field Club.

Mr. James Backhouse, Jr., F.Z.S., has in preparation a 'Handbook of European Birds,' to be published, in an 8vo form, during the ensuing spring by Messrs. Gurney and Jackson, at a subscription price of 7s. 6d.

The proposed work is intended to treat of *European* birds only, but, it being by no means easy in some cases to decide which species deserve to be thus described, two Appendices will be added: one comprising a list of strictly Asiatic or African birds which have only casually occurred within European limits; the other a list of the Nearctic (North American) species of which records are extant as having been met with in Europe.